

THE WASHINGTON POST

DATE 29 MAR 73 PAGE 3**Anti-Drug Agency Proposed**

By Carroll Kilpatrick

Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon proposed yesterday the consolidation of all federal narcotics enforcement activity into a single agency to do battle with "a resourceful, elusive, worldwide enemy."

In a special message to Congress, the President said that "very encouraging" progress has been made against drug traffickers but that "the resilience of the international drug trade remains grimly impressive."

Despite a sevenfold increase in funds in five years to stop the traffic, "only a small fraction" of heroin and cocaine entering the country is intercepted, the President said.

The proposed reorganization will go into effect unless vetoed by Congress within 60 days. The President designated Myles J. Ambrose, a special assistant attorney general in charge of drug abuse law enforcement, to direct the agency "during its formative period."

There were unconfirmed reports that John Bartels, Ambrose's deputy and a former New York prosecutor, may be named permanent head of the agency within a few months.

In sending the reorganization plan to Congress, the President rejected a recommendation of the National Commission on Marijuana and

Drug Abuse that all drug programs—law enforcement, education, research and treatment—be placed in an independent agency. Only the law enforcement activities will be consolidated under the President's plan.

On Capitol Hill, Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff (D-Conn.) endorsed the President's plan.

Ribicoff said it represents "a sorely needed response to the overlapping jurisdictions, competing interests and breakdown in communications which have plagued our drug law enforcement efforts and have allowed many major traffickers to prove themselves better organized than the federal agencies pursuing them."

Rivalry between feuding agencies has undermined drug enforcement activities, Ribicoff said in a statement.

Under the President's plan, a Drug Enforcement Administration will be established in

the Justice Department encompassing the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, the Office for Drug Abuse Law Enforcement and the Office of National Narcotics Intelligence.

Some 500 drug law enforcement officers from the Customs Bureau would be transferred to the new agency.

Immigration and naturalization responsibilities and agents at U.S. ports of entry would be transferred from the Justice Department to the Customs Bureau in the Treasury Department.

Mr. Nixon said that "the cold-blooded underworld networks that funnel narcotics from suppliers all over the world into the veins of American drug victims are no respecters of the bureaucratic dividing lines that now complicate our anti-drug efforts."

The President first outlined his plans to consolidate the law enforcement activities in a radio speech March 10 and in

creased severity of already serious punishment will somehow increase the real deterrent to crime, which under these circumstances is the certainty of punishment."

Acknowledging that he had written the memo, Jaffe said yesterday that he fully supports the President's bill.

He said he had had many

opportunities to comment on draft legislation and that his comments had been well received.

In the memo, Jaffe argued that life imprisonment with no possibility of parole would increase the incentive "for high-level traffickers to murder suspected informers, witnesses and arresting officers."

a crime message to Congress March 14.

He called for a narcotics law that would restore mandatory minimum prison sentences for convicted drug traffickers and prohibit bail in heroin cases unless the accused satisfies a magistrate that he will not be dangerous if released.

The Los Angeles Times reported yesterday that Dr. Jerome H. Jaffe sent a memo on March 9 to presidential aide John D. Ehrlichman warning that the administration bill would be counter-productive and could "subject the administration to criticism for attempting a dangerous and irresponsible experiment."

Jaffe supervises the administration's educational and treatment program for drug addicts. He told Ehrlichman that the proposed bill was based on two "false" premises:

"That federal judges cannot be trusted with sentencing discretion and that mandating in-

NEW YORK TIMES

DATE

2 MAR 73

PAGE

260

Nixon Plans to Unify Drug Enforcement Agencies

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 28—President Nixon sent to Congress today a reorganization plan designed to make the Government's "all-out" global war on the drug menace as well organized as the heroin traffickers who elude Federal agents every day.

The plan, to become effective in 60 days, unless Congress expressly forbids it, will place enforcement under a new agency in the Justice Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Myles J. Ambrose, 45-year-old Assistant Attorney General in charge of drug prosecution, will organize the agency and head it. President Nixon announced through a spokesman. The several agencies now operating in drug enforcement, including the Custom Bureau's narcotics agents, will be consolidated in the new office.

Congress is expected to go along with the plan. Senator

Abraham A. Ribicoff, Democrat of Connecticut, whose committee has jurisdiction over the drug enforcement, praised the plan as a "sorely needed reorganization" to the overlapping jurisdictions and breakdown in communications which have plagued our efforts.

Both Senator Ribicoff and President Nixon complained that the Government's efforts had not been able to match the enterprise and organization of the traffickers.

"Certainly the cold-blooded underworld networks that funnel narcotics from suppliers all over the world into the veins of American drug victims are no respecters of the bureaucratic dividing lines that now complicate our antidrug efforts," Mr. Nixon said. "On the contrary, these modern-day slave traders can derive only advantage from the limitations of the existing organizational patchwork."

Senator Ribicoff said the current enforcement efforts "have allowed many major traffickers to prove themselves better organized than the Federal agencies pursuing them."

"Despite a seven-fold increase in funding of Federal drug law enforcement over the past five years, the situation today remains one of major heroin traffickers being identified by the hundreds but being apprehended only by the dozens, of heroin being smuggled into the nation each year only by the tons but being seized by the pounds," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Nixon asked Congress to enact minimum sentences for drug pushers up to life imprisonment without parole. The language used in today's message continued his "get-tough approach."

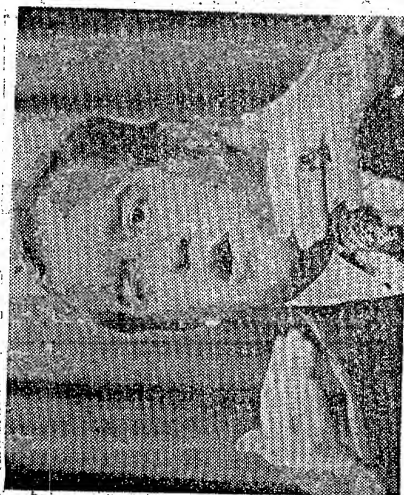
"This Administration has declared all-out global war on the drug menace," he said, adding that even though some progress has been made "the resilience of the international Government actions on drugs,

drug trade remains grimly inpressive." As a result, he said, "local police still find that more than one of every three suspects arrested for street crimes are narcotics abusers or addicts."

Under the reorganization, the President would retain the special action office for drug abuse prevention he set up in the White House two years ago. He said this office stressed preventive programs and rehabilitation.

The proposed agency will take over the duties of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs; and two other agencies of the Justice Department, the Office of Drug Abuse Law Enforcement, the Office of National Narcotics Intelligence, as well as the drug investigation functions of the Customs Bureau, a division of the Treasury Department.

The Drug Abuse Council, a private organization funded by the Ford Foundation to monitor



Myles J. Ambrose, Assistant Attorney General in charge of drug prosecution, explaining the President's plan.

Associated Press

said the Administration was "promising Americans, once again, illusory, overly simplistic solutions to complex problems that history teaches are not amenable to simple solutions."

Dr. Thomas E. Bryant, presi-